(vi) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(vii) To increase use of 3-D seismic surveys in new and producing areas.

Steps have also been taken to increase refining capacity by expansion of existing refineries in public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector.

Statement

Consumption trend of Petroleum Products for April-June

(Thousand Metric Tonne)

Product	Sales (PSU + PMS)		
	2000-01 (Provisional)	2001-02 (Provisional)	% Growth
1	2	3	4
LPG	1581	1745	10.4
MS	1622	1765	8.8
Naphtha	2756	2984	8.3
ATF	546	562	2.9
SKO	2866	2568	-10.4
LDO	360	301	-16.4
HSD	10152	9810	-3.4
FO/LSHS	2966	3150	6.2
LUBES	191	224	17.3
Bitumen	787	777	-1.3
Others	1427	1032	-27.7
TOTAL	25253	24918	-1.3

Note: Data on private imports is as per Industry assesment in absence of any authentic source for collection of information.

New System for procurement of LPG Cylinders

2567. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to procure LPG cylinders through an open tender system instead of buying from authorised manufacturer at a fixed price;

(b) if so, whether the prices of LPG cylinders would also be reduced to some extent;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent the LPG consumers throughout the country are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies floated the tenders individually for procurement of cylinders for the calendar year 2001.

It is expected that the price of procurement of cylinders will come down. However the cylinder manufacturers have challenged the tendering procedure in various Courts and the matter is pending for disposal. As the matter is *sub-judice*, it is not possible to ascertain the extent of reduction in the price, at this stage.

Oil reserves of ONGC

2568. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state.

(a) whether ONGC has formulated a strategy to double its oil and gas reserves in the next few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) existing position of oil and gas reserves in the country; and

(d) whether ONGC would take help of any developed country in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Short and Medium-Long term Exploration and Production strategy of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) being formulated envisages establishing in a high case scenario, 6-7 billion tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas (O+OEG) over and above 6.029 billion tonnes of O+OEG of its initial hydrocarbon inplace.

The exploration strategy of ONGC being formulated has been phased into Short term covering the 10th Five Year Plan and Medium-Long term, covering